

Jesus _____.
Week 1/4: May 9, 2021

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to personalize today's message, realizing they are sinners but when Jesus looks at them He sees someone worth loving.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 & Luke 19:1-10

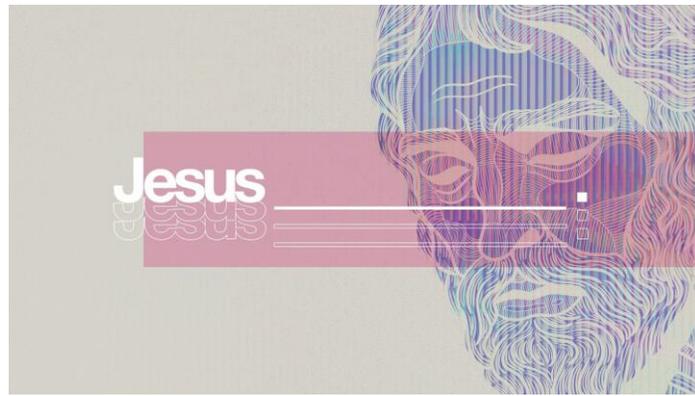
THINK ABOUT THIS

Zacchaeus was given a negative label by others – no one in the crowd around him would be shocked if Jesus just labeled him a sinner, like they did, and passed him by. But **PLOT TWIST** Jesus sees someone worth saving, someone worth building a relationship with, and stops to invite Zacchaeus to hang out.

We can all probably think of “that guy” or “that girl” in our head who has a negative label. Who no one would blink if they were called a sinner. But **PLOT TWIST** the Bible actually says we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). When Jesus looks at us He knows we are sinners, but He sees someone worth saving, someone worth building a relationship with, and invites us to hang out with Him.

Take time to pray for your students by name this week. Pray for them to realize that they are sinners, but when Jesus looks at them He sees someone worth saving and worth building a deeper relationship with.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Jesus loves sinners.

GET THEM TALKING

Do you like climbing trees? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ LUKE 19:1-10 and discuss:

1. In your own words, what is happening in these Bible verses?
2. Imagine you are Zacchaeus – what different emotions would you feel living out these moments?
3. How does Jesus treat Zacchaeus?
4. How does Zacchaeus respond to Jesus?
5. What label does the crowd give Zacchaeus?
6. The Bible actually says we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). What do you think it means that we are all sinners?

READ JOHN 3:16 and discuss:

7. In your own words, what do these Bible verses mean?
8. If you are given the label of sinner, why do these Bible verses matter to you?
9. Repentance is a sincere regret we have for doing something wrong paired with the commitment to change for the better. How can someone repent of their sins?
10. How does someone receive eternal life from Jesus?

NEXT STEP

Take a few silent moments in prayer together for everyone to silently ask Jesus to forgive their sins and thank God for His saving, loving grace. Encourage your students to remember how much Jesus loves them every day this week!

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

LUKE 19:1-10 (NIV)

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

“**19** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. **3** He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” **6** So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”